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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

Report of the Second Committee (Part IV)**

Rapporteur: Mr. Basheer F. ZOUBI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 95, sub-items (b) and (c) (see A/50/617, para. 3). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 38th, 41st and 43rd meetings, on 22 November and 5 and 12 December 1995. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/50/SR.38, 41 and 43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/50/L.27 and L.57

2. At the 38th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.27), which read as follows:

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/50/617 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

"Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held in Istanbul,

"Noting with satisfaction the progress made so far in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session, 1/ as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 2/

"Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 3/ and Agenda 21 4/ for the purpose of implementing the decisions and recommendations of Habitat II,

"Recalling also its resolution 49/109, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

"1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 1/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities; decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters; and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference;

"2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 February to 8 March 1996 (rather than from 5 to 16 February 1996) to finalize the

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

2/ A/50/519.

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

provisional agenda for the Conference and to formulate the draft global plan of action to be adopted by the Conference, including a statement of principles and commitments as an integrated part of the plan of action;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

"4. Reaffirms that the Conference should have the dimensions of a 'city summit' and should be held at the highest possible level of participation, as affirmed in its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994;

"5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and renews its appeal to those that have not yet done so to contribute substantially to the voluntary fund, which was established by the Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference, in order to facilitate the full and effective participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the role of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the outcome of the Conference;

"7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled 'United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)' under the item 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation'."

3. A statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was contained in document A/C.2/50/L.44.

4. At the 41st meeting, on 5 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Conor Murphy (Ireland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)" (A/C.2/50/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27, and orally revised it as follows: In the fourth preambular paragraph, in the last line the word "implementing" was replaced by the words "guiding the implementation of".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

6. After the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, a statement was made by Turkey (see A/C.2/50/SR.41).

7. In view of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level, submitted under item 95 (c) (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996, and to establish both a preparatory committee and an ad hoc secretariat for the Conference,

Reiterating its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for offering to act as host to the Conference, which is to be held at Istanbul,

Noting with satisfaction the progress that has been made so far in the preparations for the Conference, as outlined in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on its second substantive session 5/ and the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference, 6/

Reaffirming the importance of the principles and concepts set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 7/ and Agenda 21 8/ for the purpose of guiding the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Conference,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/50/37).

6/ A/50/519.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

8/ Ibid., annex II.

Recalling also its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994, in which, inter alia, it decided that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference,

1. Endorses the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on its second substantive session (Nairobi, 24 April-5 May 1995), 5/ which contains, inter alia, decision II/1 on the financing of the Conference and its preparatory activities, decision II/3 on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee on the organization of work of the Conference, including the holding of pre-conference consultations on 1 and 2 June 1996, the establishment of committees and other procedural matters and decision II/4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference; 9/

2. Decides that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 16 February 1996;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary provisions, within existing resources, so that the Preparatory Committee may, if it so decides, establish two working groups to meet in addition to plenary meetings for the duration of the third session;

4. Notes with interest the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to give the Conference the dimensions of a "city summit", and reaffirms that the Conference should be held at the highest possible level of participation;

5. Expresses its sincere appreciation to those States and organizations that have made or pledged financial or other contributions in support of the preparatory activities for the Conference, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to continue to make every effort to raise the extrabudgetary resources required for Conference activities and preparations;

6. Renews its appeal to all Governments, especially the Governments of developed countries and other Governments in a position to do so, as well as to international and regional financial institutions, to make substantial contributions to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180 for the purpose of financing preparatory activities for the Conference and supporting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process;

7. Encourages all relevant non-governmental organizations that are interested, especially organizations from developing countries, to participate in and contribute to the Conference and its preparatory process on the basis of the procedures adopted at recent United Nations conferences;

9/ As amended in A/C.2/50/9 and Corr.1.

8. Invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Conference undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the role played by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in that process;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", under the item "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation".

10. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the regional commissions on the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at the regional level. 10/

10/ A/50/411.